

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 9, line 10 with the following amended paragraph:

In particular, a stable binding loop having a high affinity for fibrin is disclosed, having the formula: Cys-X<sub>2</sub>-X<sub>3</sub>-X<sub>4</sub>-X<sub>5</sub>-X<sub>6</sub>-X<sub>7</sub>-X<sub>8</sub>-Cys (SEQ ID NO: 2), wherein  
X<sub>2</sub> is Pro, Arg, Asn, Asp, Gln, Gly, Phe, Ser, Thr, or Tyr; preferably X<sub>2</sub> is Pro;  
X<sub>3</sub> is Ala, Asn, Asp, Gln, Glu, Gly, Ile, Leu, Met, Phe, Pro, Ser, Thr, Trp, Tyr, or Val; preferably  
X<sub>3</sub> is Asp, Glu, Gly, Met, or Trp;  
X<sub>4</sub> is Glu, Gly, Lys, Ser, or Tyr; most preferably Glu;  
X<sub>5</sub> is Pro, Asp, Glu, Asn, Gln, Gly, Leu, Lys, Ser, Thr, or Tyr; preferably X<sub>5</sub> is Asn, Asp, Glu, Pro, or Ser; most preferably X<sub>5</sub> is Pro;  
X<sub>6</sub> is Arg, Gly, or Trp;  
X<sub>7</sub> is Leu, Ile, Lys, Met, Asn, Gln, Pro, Ser, Thr, or Val; preferably X<sub>7</sub> is Leu or Thr; and  
X<sub>8</sub> is Ile, Leu, Phe, Trp, or Tyr.